

Appl. No. 10/621,630
Reply to Office Action of March 5, 2004.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A fixing device for use in an image forming apparatus which is capable of forming both-side images on a sheet which passes through the fixing device twice by using a sheet reversing and conveying device, the fixing device comprising:

(a) a heat applying ~~rotary body~~ fixing belt having an elastic layer ~~made of rubber including at least one layer and further and~~ a toner releasing layer on top thereof for coming into contact with and heating a side bearing an unfixed toner image of a transfer sheet;

(b) a heat applying source for heating the heat applying fixing belt;

[[(b)]] (c) a pressure applying rotary body having a second elastic layer ~~made of rubber including at least one layer and~~

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[[further]] a second toner releasing layer on top thereof for fixing and conveying the transfer material by coming into pressure contact and rotating with the heat applying fixing belt rotary body; and

~~(c) a drive source for driving at least one of said rotary bodies, and~~

~~(d) a heat applying source for heating at least one of said rotary bodies, wherein the pressure applying rotary body has a micro-hardness of the pressure applying rotary body which is smaller than that of the heat applying fixing belt rotary body.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The fixing device of claim 1, wherein the micro-hardness of the pressure applying ~~rotary body~~ fixing belt before providing the second releasing layer is equal to or larger than that of the heat applying rotary body before providing the releasing layer.

3. (Currently Amended) The fixing device of claim 1, wherein each value of the micro-hardness of the pressure applying rotary body and the heat applying fixing belt rotary body represents each value when the elastic layer of the heat applying fixing

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belt rotary body and the second elastic layer of the pressure applying rotary body are formed of a same material in a same thickness.

4. (Currently Amended) The fixing device of claim 1, wherein the releasing layer of the heat applying fixing belt rotary body and the second releasing layer of the pressure applying rotary body are formed of a same material, and a thickness of the second releasing layer of the pressure applying rotary body is smaller than that of the releasing layer of the heat applying fixing belt rotary body.

5. (Currently Amended) The fixing device of claim 1, wherein hardness of the second releasing layer of the pressure applying rotary body is smaller than that of the releasing layer of the heat applying fixing belt rotary body.

6. (Currently Amended) The fixing device of claim 1, wherein the heat applying rotary body further comprises a mixture layer composed of a rubber and a resin, which is provided between the elastic layer and the releasing layer, and the pressure applying

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rotary body further comprises a second mixture layer composed of a rubber including at least one layer and resin, which is provided between the second elastic layer and second releasing layer, and wherein when the releasing layer of the heat applying fixing belt rotary body and the second releasing layer of the pressure applying rotary body are formed of a same material in a same thickness, a thickness of the second mixture layer of the pressure applying rotary body is smaller than that of the mixture layer of the heat applying fixing belt rotary body.

7. (Currently Amended) The fixing device of claim 1, wherein the heat applying fixing belt rotary body further comprises a mixture layer composed of a rubber and a resin, which is provided between the elastic layer and the releasing layer, and the pressure applying rotary body further comprises a second mixture layer composed of a rubber including at least one layer and resin, which is provided between the second elastic layer and second releasing layer, and wherein when the releasing layer of the heat applying rotary body fixing belt and the second releasing layer of the pressure applying rotary body are formed of a same material in a same thickness, hardness of the second mixture

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layer of the pressure applying rotary body is smaller than that of the mixture layer of the heat applying fixing belt rotary body.

Claims 8-11 (Canceled).

12. (Currently Amended) The fixing device of claim 1, wherein the heat applying ~~rotary body is a heat applying and fixing belt~~ representing has an endless belt shape, and the pressure applying rotary body ~~represents~~ has a roll shape and has a stiffness body inside the second elastic layer.

13. (Currently Amended) The fixing device of claim 1 ~~[[12]]~~, further comprising a pressure applying body for coming into contact with an inner side of the heat applying ~~[[and]]~~ fixing belt and for pressing the heat applying ~~[[and]]~~ fixing belt toward the pressure applying rotary body.

Claim 14 (Canceled).

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15. (Original) An image forming apparatus comprising the fixing device set forth in claim 1, and an image forming device capable of outputting an image having at least two or more colors.

16. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising the fixing device set forth in claim 1, wherein an outer layer of each of the heat applying fixing belt ~~rotary body~~ and the pressure applying rotary body mainly comprises PFA, a toner comprises a wax, and a mechanism for coating the toner releasing layer to a surface of each of the heat applying rotary body and the pressure applying fixing belt ~~rotary body~~ is absent.

17. (New) The fixing device of claim 1, comprising a drive source for driving at least one of the heating fixing belt and the pressure applying rotary body.

18. (New) The fixing device of claim 1, wherein the pressure applying rotary body is a roller.